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Mission Statement:

Established in the Spirit of Jesus Christ with an
Afro-centric focus, Blessed Sacrament Chapel is com-
mitted to spreading the "Word" through
fellowship and good works.

Sunday Mass: 10:00AM
Reconciliation: 1st Sunday 9:30AM

St. Stephen Cathedral Parish Office: 270-683-6525

Rector: Fr. Jerry Riney, jerry.riney@pastoral.org

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Jamie Dennis,
james.dennis@pastoral.org

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr. Jeannette Fennwald, SSND
jeannette.fennwald@pastoral.org

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — As a garden makes its growth
spring up, so will God make justice spring up be-
fore all the nations (Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11).

Psalms — My soul rejoices in my God
(Luke 1:46-50, 53-54).

Second Reading — Do not quench the Spirit. Do
not despise prophetic utterances. Test everything;
retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:16-24).

Gospel — I am the voice of one crying out in the
desert, make straight the way of the Lord (John
1:6-8, 19-28).



Third Sunday of Advent
December 17, 2017

Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-17



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Coming Events

CALENDAR



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

- ◆ Dec. 17—St. Nick after Mass
Parish gathering in hall after Mass
- ◆ Dec. 17—Decorate Church (begin)
- ◆ Dec. 24—Finish Church decorations
- ◆ Dec. 24 10 AM
Mass (4th Sunday of Advent)
- ◆ Dec. 24—7 PM
Mass Christmas Eve
- ◆ Dec. 31 10 AM Mass (Holy Family Sunday)
- ◆ Jan. 1 No Mass at BSC 7 and 12 at St. Stephen's



Upcoming Diocesan/Community Events

- ◆ Feb. 17 Diocesan Men's Conference
- ◆ March 9-11 Youth 2000 Retreat (held at Brescia University)

Thank you for your contributions..

Dec. 10— \$534
Weekly Budget \$865
Year to date —\$19,583
YTD budget—\$20,760
(\$1177)
Candles—\$10

Thanks for using the Debt Reduction envelope. It helps bring down what we owe.



Advent Reconciliation Schedule

St. Stephen's Cathedral—Dec. 17 2 PM
Immaculate—Dec. 19 6 PM
Sts. Joseph and Paul—Dec. 19 6:30 PM
Mount St. Joseph—Dec. 21 6 PM
St. Pius Tenth—Dec. 21 6PM
St. Alphonsus—Wednesday evenings
St. Martin, Rome—Sunday evenings 4:00-5:45

"He has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor."

In today's first reading, the prophet Isaiah acknowledges that he was "sent" to bring glad tidings to the poor and to bring good news to God's people. By virtue of our baptism, we are all called and sent to be a part of God's divine plan of salvation.

IMP—Kroger

Blessed Sacrament's # is 30623

With holiday shopping upon us, Blessed Sacrament would appreciate being named as your community reward recipient. Every purchase you make means money back to Blessed Sacrament Thank you for your support. You can enroll at www.kroger.com or call 1-800-KROGERS , option 3

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer 23:5-8; Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19; Mt 1:18-25
Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a; Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17; Lk 1:5-25
Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 1:26-38
Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a; Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21; Lk 1:39-45
Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28; 1 Sm 2:1, 4-8abcd; Lk 1:46-56
Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24; Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-10, 14; Lk 1:57-66
Sunday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 16:25-27; Lk 1:26-38

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Advent
Thursday: St. Peter Canisius; Winter begins
Saturday: St. John of Kanty



PROPER UNDERTAKING

Never undertake anything for which you wouldn't have the courage to ask the blessings of heaven.

—Georg C. Lichtenberg

REJOICE

Isaiah proclaims truly good news to us! God's coming brings not sadness, guilt, fear, wrath, or condemnation. No, God's coming is a source of comfort and joy. Saying it once is not enough, for today's readings are full of joy. Mary's Magnificat substitutes for our psalm today, and our second reading encourages us to rejoice, to give thanks and praise. This is the root meaning of the Greek word for eucharist. We are urged to rejoice and give thanks, because the coming of the Lord brings joy, healing, liberty, release, vindication. It makes the very earth spring up with new life! Good tidings!

The matter of witness is a serious and important thing. It establishes truth and a solid foundation for faith. When we personally witness, it means we make a commitment. We cannot be neutral when it comes to our faith. We are called to be disciples, witnesses of and for Christ. We best accomplish that by the ways we live our own lives and how we relate to and treat others. Jesus can meet our every need. Now is the time for us to accept that and to place our total trust in Him. We can do that best by making our own commitment to be His disciple, a witness to Who He is and what He means to us and all people.

From the desk of Father Jamie



Are we there yet? I am sure that is how some of us, including myself feel when we get to the 3rd Sunday of Advent. That is what the rose candle means today, that we are almost there. The Church has a funny sense of humor that way.

We spend a lot of time in waiting it seems. Good things come for those who wait though. I think for me, seminary seemed like it was the thing had to wait to get through longer than anything else in my life. I am so thankful that I waited though, because priesthood is better than I ever could have imagined. There are so many things that are worth waiting for. Waiting for the birth of a child, and waiting for a holy death are both things I think are worth waiting for. Whether at the beginning of life or at the end, we do a lot of waiting.

Waiting can be difficult, but what helps is being a joyful person in waiting. We have to keep ourselves busy while we wait. In the Christian life, as we wait for the second coming, we wait by keeping ourselves busy in living the Christian life to the best of our ability. May we wait well and joyfully. He is coming.

Is there someone that you can help remove an obstacle to a greater relationship with Christ?



December Birthdays
14—Linda McDonald
16—Yulanda Williams
18—Robert Johnson
20—Cathy Kramer
24—Susan Mutter



E-Giving is Alive!!

You can go to www.blessedsacramentchapel.org and click on “E-giving”.

Year End

Many times people are looking to make an end-of-the-year donation for tax purposes. Blessed Sacrament would be honored and happy to be remembered.

Mass Intentions:

- Dec. 10—Donald Moorman
- Dec. 17—Jerry Mezur
- Dec. 24 (10 AM)—Barbara Horsley
- Dec. 24 (7 PM)—Sandra Brown
- Dec. 31—Les Bumm

Let us remember to pray for those who have recently died or those who are in the process of dying. Always remember to pray for the poor souls in purgatory.

“I am the voice of one crying out in the desert make straight the way of the Lord”

Today we hear the story of the Baptism of Jesus from the beginning of St. John’s Gospel. John adds the information that “This happened in Bethany across from the Jordan where John was baptizing.” This situates the event on the east side of the Jordan River, not far from Herod’s castle/fortress at Machaerus, where John would soon be beheaded. John the Baptist did not urge people to challenge the authority of leaders of the Jews or call for the overthrow of the civil government, or an armed revolt. He called upon people to change their own hearts and to live according to God’s Commandment to love God and our neighbor as our self. This is how we “make straight the way of the Lord” to enter our hearts. For many this involves radical change. It involves a humble admission that what we are is God’s gift to us; what we become is our gift to God. Are you still struggling with a gift for Jesus. Here it is: “Make straight the way of the Lord” to enter your heart by a humble admission of who God is in our lives.

MINSTERS

Lectors

Dec. 24 (10 AM) Gloria Adams
Kathi Skidd

Dec. 24 (7 PM) Darlina Etienne
Diana Hatchett

Dec. 31 Audrey Mezur
Marsha Allen

Eucharistic Ministers

Dec. 24 (10 AM) Lori Carman
M.K. Gough
Payton Sanford

Dec. 24 (7 PM) Greg Gough
Vivian Higgs
Marsha Allen

Dec. 31 Tina Gough
Charlene Meadows
Karen Leachman

Ushers/Offertory

Dec. 24 (10 AM) Robert Johnson
Rita Moorman

Dec. 24 (7 PM) Charles Brown Family

Dec. 31: Cathy, Ethan, Martha Kramer

Prepare the way of the Lord



Many people give gift cards at Christmas or buy gifts with gift cards. Think about using Scrip. Gift cards to local and national merchants (department stores, restaurants, health care, automotive, sporting goods, just to mention a few) are available. A percentage is given back by the merchant. If you mention Blessed Sacrament Chapel when you purchase them, we will get 75% of the rebate. Some merchants give us much as 20% of the value of the card. You only pay the amount of the gift card. Scrip is available at the Catholic High School Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8 AM to 5 PM. You can get all your gift cards at one location and not have to go to various stores. If you have any questions, please see Sister Jeannette. (At the school where I was, this was one of our biggest money-maker.) It takes a little effort but is worth it. Cards are available year round. This past July we received a rebate check for \$235.57—a huge increase from the \$19.99 we received in 2016. Would love to see a big increase this next July.

Diocesan Response Fund

Thank you for your response to the DRF appeal in October. Our target was \$1025.24 and we have pledges of \$1930. Of that amount \$753 has been paid. Please keep paying on your pledged amount and if you want to contribute but did not pledge, please do so.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Last week, we looked at a form of nativity scene called a *presipio*, characterized by framing the crèche of Jesus with a vast array of personalities and a rich geographical context. The tradition was carried to the New World, and finds very rich expression in Latin America today. While in Europe the *presepio* was reserved mostly to the homes of wealthy nobles and great churches, in Latin America it was claimed by the poor and expressed the skills of native artisans. In Mexico, you can still find clay figures in every village market. In a way, the native people took the religion of Spanish rule and baptized it with their Indian culture by surrounding the crib of Jesus with local geography and people. In Brazil, where Christmas falls in summer, the figure of the baby Jesus is wrapped in gold and gems, and set on a hillside surrounded by flowers and animals of all kinds. Sometimes there is a double *presepio*, presenting both Nativity and Crucifixion.

In some places in Latin America, even non-religious people take care to have a *presepio* in the home, sometimes dedicating one whole room in the house or apartment to the scene. Some cities have markets where people from the countryside sell plants and figurines. In Cuzco, churches and families provide hot chocolate for the children of the poor who come down to help create the nativity scenes. In Paraguay, the baby Jesus grows—the small infant who arrives on Christmas Eve is replaced at New Year with a toddler Jesus who holds in one hand the globe and in the other a cross. Few Christmas traditions have the vitality and variety of *presepios* and crèches honoring the Nativity.

Our thoughts and prayers are with:
SICK: Frank Adams, Denise Higgs, Ruth Coble, Carol Hatchett, Loretta Wathen, Beverly Chilton, Sister Janice Fennwald, Charlene Meadows, Larry Leachman, Blythe Nantz, . Philip Moorman, Sr., Camilla Greer, Jim Moorman, Sarah Bumm, Dorothy Fulton, Louise Johnson, Larry Allen, Betty Clark, Philip Moorman, Jr., Linda McDonald **If you know of anyone seriously ill who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.**

THE HOMEBOUND:

Stan Howard at Bishop Soennecker Home, Knottsville, A phone call or a card can cheer the homebound if you can't visit.

Please remember all of our benefactors in your prayers. Blessed Sacrament could not exist without your and many others supporting us.

At this time of the year, take a few minutes to reach out to someone who feels alienated from God and others. There are many people who will not have someone to celebrate with at Christmas. What can you do to share the love of Christ with others as we enjoy our many blessings?